

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- ✓1. A solid image capturing apparatus comprising:
an image capturing device;
said image capturing device includes means for receiving an optical
5 image;
means responsive to said optical image for conducting photoelectric
conversion of said optical image to produce an image output signal;
means for generating characteristic data of said image capturing device to
produce a characteristic data signal;
10 an output terminal;
means for outputting an output signal from output terminal; and
said means for outputting including means for outputting said output
signal including both said image output signal and said characteristic data signal.
- ✓2. A solid image capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
15 said image capturing device includes an image field;
said image field includes an effective image field and an invalid image
field; and
said invalid image field including characteristic data of said solid image
capturing device.
- 20 ✓3. A solid image capturing device according to claim 2, wherein said
invalid image field is located outside said effective image field.
- ✓4. A solid image capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein:
said solid image capturing device includes an optical mask covering said
invalid image field; and

said optical mask includes a memory field which optically stores said characteristic data.

~~5~~ 5. A solid image capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

said invalid image field includes a memory field; and

5 said memory field includes non-optical means for storing said characteristic data.

✓ 6. A solid image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a lens; and

10 said lens being integrally combined with said solid image capturing device.

✓ 7. A solid image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a processing circuit for processing data output from said output terminal;

15 and

a determining means for determining said characteristic data from said output signal.

8. A solid image capturing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

20 said lens unit containing said means for generating characteristic data;

a main body of said image capturing apparatus; and

said lens unit is adapted for interchangeable mounting on said main body, whereby, whenever a lens is changed, characteristic data associated with said new lens is automatically available to said solid image capturing apparatus.

25 9. An image capturing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a main body of the image capturing apparatus;

a lens unit;

means for permitting interchangeable mounting of said lens unit on said main body; and

said lens unit including therein said image capturing device.

5 10. An image capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

a processing circuit for processing said output signal; and

a determining means for determining data that is characteristic to the solid image capturing device and processed by the processing circuit.

10 11. An image capturing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said main body includes:

a processing circuit for processing said output signal; and

a determining means for determining data that is characteristic to said solid image capturing device and processed by the processing circuit.

15 12. An image capturing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein: said output signal includes said characteristic data and said image output signal; and

20 said determining means time separating said characteristic data from said image output signal, whereby a single output signal is enabled to contain both said characteristic data and said image output signal without interference therebetween.

13. An image capturing device according to claim 12, wherein said characteristic data is contained in a field outside of a field that generates said image output signal.